

Shea, Valois

From: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 1:54 PM
To: Shea, Valois
Subject: Black Hills uranium mining permits comments

Dear EPA, Region 8:

Here are my comments on the Underground Injection Control Program's Draft Permits for the Proposed Dewey-Burdock Uranium Mine and Deep Disposal Wells:

Old uranium mines in the Dewey-Burdock area should be fully reclaimed before any new mining is permitted. Adequate oversight of the quality of liquid wastes pumped into the Minnelusa Formation through the proposed deep disposal wells will be impossible, and our groundwater is likely to be irreversibly contaminated. A full survey of cultural and historical sites is needed before any mining or deep disposal is allowed. Cultural and historical sites must be protected. It should also be noted that the proposed mining area falls within the boundary of the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868. Full engagement over this issue with any tribes who are party to that treaty is essential. The US constitution states that treaties are the supreme law of the land. The proposed mine and deep disposal wells are in an area that is documented to have faults, fractures, breccia pipes, and over 7000 old boreholes that have not been properly plugged. It will be impossible to contain mining fluids or waste liquids, and contamination of our groundwater is highly likely. The history of uranium mining indicates that uranium mining cannot be done without creating and leaving contamination. This project should be stopped until it can be proved to be safe, rather than relying on imperfect protection and clean-up processes. Even one death or illness as a result of uranium mining is totally unacceptable. The Black Hills are a semi arid area prone to regular drought. The vast quantities of ground water needed for the mining and the potential for contamination are unacceptable. Aquifers are not replenished overnight. Water is indeed life! Please do not risk it just to line the pockets of a private corporation.

Sincerely,

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